

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/933,332
Response Dated Nov. 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 27, 2004
Docket No. BOC9-2001-0007 (242)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of October 27, 2004 (Office Action). The response is timely filed within the 30 day shortened statutory period, and, as such, no fee is believed due.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his thorough examination of the application.

A restriction requirement is set forth in the Office Action requiring election of one of the following claim groupings:

Group I: Claims 1, 2-30, and 36-62, drawn to chat participants accessing and modifying each others contact lists provided they have the permissions to do so by the owner of the contact list, classified in class 709, subclass 232.

Group II: Claims 31, and 32-35, drawn to a GUI displaying chat participants engaged in a chat session and a contact window displaying information for at least one chat session participant, classified in class 709, subclass 205.

Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1, 2-30, and 36-62) for prosecution. Withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that the above restriction election is incomplete or in any way improper. Applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577
Brian K. Buchheit, Registration No. 52,667
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
Customer No. 40987
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 653-5000